

FIGHT FOR LIFE WITH A PIPE.

A Cool Pacing Down of Deadly Foes in South Africa.

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In the year 1868 I was at Molapolo, the chief town of the Bechuanaland family. The situation of this town is so romantic, situated amidst tall, perpendicular hills of red sandstone, that I had been loitering here for some little time, exploring the country, enjoying the society of Mr. Price, the missionary, or drinking "Kappe" beer with the king, Mr. H. Sheiton, who kept a large store here, also offered me hospitality, so that I had a prolonged period of enjoyment. But inactivity is liable to become irksome, and the arrival of a trader bound for Mangwato with a cargo of Cape brandy induced me to decide to travel with him.

LION HUNTING BY THE WAY.

The journey from Molapolo took fourteen days to accomplish, but it lay through a very pretty wooded region where his game was abundant, so that we had plenty of shooting. Wild geese, koodoo and giraffe all fell to our guns, and the nightly visit of lions which kept the camp constantly on the qui vive, gave us a lively time. It was a week in the afternoon when we arrived at our destination and outspanned on the outskirts of the thickly populated town of some 12,000 inhabitants. News soon got abroad that the trader was loaded up with brandy, and the storekeepers, some fourteen in all, came knocking out of the station to make purchases. Conviviality was the order of the day, but unfortunately neither native nor European was strong enough to distinguish the boundary line between moderation and excess, so that before night sat in nearly all had indulged too freely, and a few continued the orgies until the small hours of the morning. As all luck would have it, the Rev. Mr. McKenzie and his family had only left the day previous for England, and, as there was nobody to act for him in his absence, we were left without a guiding hand in a perilous emergency. It must be understood that the native population at the time I am writing of was far less civilized than it is at present under Khama's enlightened rule; and savage passions were easily aroused and were with difficulty assuaged without terrible bloodshed.

When I went to bed that night I little dreamt that a dangerous crisis was being prepared by the foolishness of two or three reckless toppers. As we were sleeping peacefully, a sudden outbreak of a tremendous uproar resounding from one end of the town to the other. One huge wave of indignation crashed into my ears with terrific effect, and the clamor of assagai and the rattle of knobkerries on shields, told me only too surely that Machin's warriors were up in arms and bent on a ruthless slaughter. Hastily arraying myself in a scanty costume, I jumped from the wagon and saw my driver and two Kaffir boys standing trembling with fright, and uncertain what to do to ensure the safety of their own skins. At this moment Strombom, a Mangwato trader and a Swede by nationality, came rushing into my camp to tell me that the Machin warriors had ordered that every white man was to be killed. The news was not conducive to producing a good appetite for breakfast, but I could hardly believe it, as Machin had hitherto been a very good friend to the traders and others visiting his country, and consequently I expressed my incredulity.

"I have no time to waste in argument," said the trader. "You must come up to my store, for if you remain here in the open you will be MASSACRED TO A DEAD CERTAINTY."

Come back with me at once, for the road will be closed against us in less than ten minutes."

"But what is the reason for this sudden frenzy on the part of Machin?" I asked.

"The general is the man who has caused it. After drinking himself into a state of intoxication, he took it into his head to kill a pig this morning. Then an idea passed through his mind, and he proceeded to put it into execution. He cut a leg off the pig and marched with it straight to the kolla or enclosure, where the king was sitting in council with his chiefs. He

advanced direct to Machin, and, thrusting the pig into his nose, asked him if he liked the smell."

"It was foolish and insulting!" I exclaimed. "But it was not bad enough to warrant Machin to issue orders for our extermination."

"Ah, you do not know that the Bakalari have an even stronger aversion to pork than the most orthodox Jew," said Strombom.

"Poor beggar!" I could not help exclaiming. "It seems that our plight is all but desperate."

"And that is Fitzgerald's condition, alas," continued Strombom. "The Indians did not allow the outrage to pass unpunished. They knocked him down and gave him such a severe beating that he is almost at the point of death."

"Now will you come with me?" urged my visitor. "Your wagon certainly will be looted, but that is an affair compared with losing your life."

I thought for a moment, but came to the conclusion that I should stand as much chance here as anywhere; so, notwithstanding my determination of sticking by my property, Strombom urged me strenuously to alter my resolve, and at last, when he saw I was obstinate, re-

luctantly hurried away to barricade himself in his store, a proceeding which all the other traders were adopting.

Fortunately in 1868 the natives possessed no firearms; they held them in mortal dread, and scarcely one could be found fearless enough to face a loaded rifle. The storekeepers knew this and hid their barriques under a pile of flour, and the white men would have been a plentiful display of every shooting weapon they possessed. The flimsy material of which the Bechuanaland huts were constructed, and the close manner in which they were huddled together, also gave the traders another advantage, for the natives did not dare to fire the stores for fear of setting the whole town in a blaze. Had they allowed passion to overcome prudence not a single hut would have been saved, and the white men would have been

stratified. This kind of thing went on at intervals during the whole of the day, and I never felt more thankful when the sun sank and darkness set the yelling Kaffirs to their huts. The intensity of the attack was such that I had to put upon myself to maintain an air of absolute placidity around me as the most exhaustive process I have ever gone through. I held another hour of such mental tension would have broken down my courage, and that I should have put an end to the awful suspense by first killing the enemy, an action that would have caused me to be instantly riddled by a hundred assagais.

A BURIAL POSTPONED.

The Bakalari had probably been unsuccessful in their attacks on the stores, for the shouting ceased, and through the night made me imagine that they had set a guard over the traders, while the bulk of the warriors turned in to rest until daylight, when the siege would be resumed.

Somewhere about 2 in the morning, the sentinels appeared to be getting drowsy, for their calls became less and less frequent until they finally ceased altogether. I began to think that now I might take a little much-needed sleep, so I awoke Piet and was giving him strict orders to keep a careful watch, when a loud cry from the adjoining bush arrested my attention. My hand was instantly clamped on a rifle, and I was raising it when the figure of my friend Strombom, who had been the other trader, stepped out into the full gray light. An exclamation of astonishment broke from both of them as they came nearer and recognized my features. "Thank God," muttered the Swede. "We crept out here to give your body a decent burial, and behold you rise up unharmed to receive us. We were all dead!"

"The whole thing is a puzzle to me as to you," I answered. And then I gave a brief account of what had befallen me during the day.

Your coolly composed, you said Strombom. "Had you fired one shot you would have been mercilessly assailed."

But how has it fared with you all at first?"

"We have had our work cut out, I can assure you," said Strombom. "The black devils made most determined assaults upon our position, but by packing cases, boxes, planks, and anything we could lay our hands upon, we have managed to keep them at bay without firing a shot."

"SPARE, BUT BANISHED."

After a little further conversation my two friends left, and I am happy to say, safely accomplished their perilous return journey. When day broke, the noise in the town increased, and bands of armed men began to appear on the different streets to continue the assault. For some time I was in a woeful state of anxiety, for want of rest made me doubtless a prey to the most terrible thoughts, and I could not stand another day like the last. No body, however, came out to molest me, although the tumult at the station waxed louder and louder. Then, for some inexplicable reason, the hubbub suddenly ceased, and a strange, almost oppressive silence reigned over everything. I was not left long in doubt as to the cause, for shortly after the sun came out, accompanied by a band of warriors, came slowly up to my wagon and informed me that Machin had consented to spare the lives of the white men, but that they must leave their place, bag and baggage, by 4 o'clock that afternoon. Anyone remaining after that time would be put to death!

I was intensely relieved at the news, and immediately commenced to inspect the losses they had undergone, the natives openly boasting of their goods which they were being plundered, the owner not daring to protest. The unfortunate Mackenzie came in for a large share of vituperation, his insult to the king being the sole cause of our disasters.

The rest of the tale is soon told. We sent a deputation to Machin to solicit permission to return to the town, as the outrage which all deplored, had been committed by a drunken man who had already been very severely punished. After some delay, Machin assented to the petition, but on condition that we should find our own way out of the town, and that we should be on our guard against any further outbreaks of the kind.

I decided to go to Molapolo. Mackenzie recovered from his wounds, though he was ill for many a long day, and no doubt received a lesson which has made him a wiser man.

THE PLAINT OF THE COREAN.

[From the Fortnightly Review.]

"What is the use of working and making money," said once a Korean to me, "if, when the work is done and the money made, this is taken away from you by the officials, and you are left with nothing? You are as poor as before, if, mind you, you are prevented enough not to be exiled to a distant province by the officials, and the man who has enriched himself at your expense? Now," added the Korean, looking earnestly into my face, "would you work under such circumstances?"

"I am hanged if I would," I replied. "I struggled hard to translate into the Korean language, to show my approval of his philosophy, but I failed. I am of the opinion that the Korean is a very depressing effect on the people 'squeezed.' It is really painful, when you first land in Korea, to notice the careworn, sad expression on every face; and there they lie about idle and pensive, doubtful as to what will happen to them tomorrow, all anxious for generations that a reform might take place in the mode of government, yet all too ready to accept of the status quo, centuries too lazy to attempt to better their position. Such is human nature! It is hard indeed to suffer, but it is nothing as compared with the trouble and worry of a life of poverty, and standing; and no one better than the Koreans knows this.—A. H. Savage Landers.

WILL SHE SMOKE?

[From the Nineteenth Century.]

Motherhood has always seemed to me the crown of a woman's life. Who can suppose nicotine to be a useful preparation for the young life to be launched into the world? And for the nursing mother, with a cigarette, what can we say? We should have to bury all our pictures of the Madonna fathoms deep, that they might not behold so unlovely a sight! Still, my other reason is dear to me, and I should like to recommend it to you.

It seems to me that in learning to smoke women are binding themselves with new fetters. There is the cost—so long as a woman smokes, she is one who has a fine taste—we may be sure woman would have that. Then there is the further burden of a smoking costume, which she must wear, and which will be less fastidious than men in this respect; but, above all, there is the burden of a constantly recurring necessity of life, which imperatively demands satisfaction. Now, we women, as it is, bound hand and foot to artificial wants.

We have idols of the house, idols of the street, idols of society, idols of fashion, and a host of others, which, in the matter of clothes alone, think how many times a fashionable woman changes her costume every day, to breakfast in, to go to the office, to drink tea in, to dine, and now, alas! to smoke in.

Earnestness is the best, purest, mental power; and deficiency of heart is the cause of many men never becoming great.—Bulwer.

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By Dr. J. Morrow, of the Medical Division of the Pension Bureau.

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Water forms one of the most important constituents of the globe. As a liquid ranging between the temperatures of 32 degrees and 212 degrees it covers more than three-fourths of the earth's surface. It is universally diffused as an invisible vapor through the atmosphere from which it is precipitated as snow, hail or rain.

It is absolutely essential to the constitution of both animal and vegetable organisms, and constitutes about 70 per cent. of animal tissues. Our bodies are largely composed of water; in fact, the blood, the muscles, the bones, and the tissues are mainly of water. Of the fluids of the body, blood contains 75, milk 86 and bile 90 per cent. of water. The water of the body is organized bodies contain even a larger percentage, thus the oyster, which many suppose to be very nutritious, contains 90 per cent. and cucumbers about 98 per cent. It is indispensable to the chemical action of the body, and to the healthy performance of the functions of the various organs, and to the health of the body. The most important of the water used for drinking and domestic purposes should be free from all deleterious substances.

NATURAL WATER NEARLY ALWAYS CONTAMINATED.

The water supplied by many of our cities and towns, as well as that used from springs and wells in many rural districts, is unfit for domestic use. Such water may be pure, soft, and sparkling and pleasant to the taste, and yet be charged with the most subtle poisons. Impure water is unhealthful, and even when it is pure, it is not so good as the water of the body, since the latter can be more readily detected by the taste and smell, and is more easily assimilated. As found in nature, water is almost always more or less contaminated with foreign matter, and is not fit for domestic use. Rain water, or that distilled in the laboratory, is the only water that is pure. In its passage through the air it absorbs or dissolves any ammonia gas that may be present, and it always contains a small quantity of carbon dioxide gas, oxygen and nitrogen, while that collected in cities and towns is charged with a large quantity of organic matter, both of animal and vegetable origin, and is often charged with the locality. When filtered and cooled to a temperature of about 46 degrees F. in a Spring water, or by placing it in ice around the vessel containing it, it is by far the most palatable and the most healthful variety of water for drinking.

Lake water, especially that found in slaty and granitic districts, is generally pure, but it is often charged with organic matter, and is not fit for domestic use. The water of the body is the only water that is pure.

On our northern boundary are tolerably pure, their chief impurity being carbonate of lime held in solution by the carbonic acid which is continually supplied to cities and towns, is subject to great variations in its composition, and is not fit for domestic use. The water of the body is the only water that is pure.

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